Montana Outdoors

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EYE ON MONTANA: 2007 PHOTO ISSUE

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ELIZABETH A. LEWIS
Above: Sunlight creates a double rainbow over Canyon Ferry Wildlife Management Area north of Townsend.

PATRICK KOLAR
Cover: Porcupine closeup.

SIT BACK AND ENJOY THE SHOW

Montana Outdoors exists to tell readers about the current management of the state's fisheries, wildlife, and state parks. Driving that editorial mission is the public's right to know about the major conservation issues involving Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks and what the department and various interest groups are saying about those issues. In 2006 you read about the contentious return of gray wolves, the plight of the pallid sturgeon, the ongoing controversy over trapping, how Montana's new economy is altering the landscape, and more.

Right now we're working on several important stories for 2007, including the ongoing conflict over off-highway vehicles (OHVs) on public lands, the debate on limiting paddlefish harvest, and how the fight over water tights affects fish populations.

Some people don't see eye to eye on these and other outdoors issues—especially ones that threaten their livelihood, recreational opportunities, or core values. But there's a common understanding that Montana's fish, wildlife, and state parks have value. And that these natural features help define who we are, either as Montanans or as visitors who love Montana.

That's what this, our 36th annual photo issue, is all about. Here we invite you to sit back and enjoy another remarkable collection of images showcasing the places, plants, and wildlife that give this state its unique appeal.

Montanans can't always reach consensus on issues surrounding elk, wolves, trout, walleyes, water, mountains, and grasslands. But they do agree that this is a beautiful state bestowed with magnificent scenery, diverse wildlife, abundant outdoor recreation, and a rugged character long absent from most other states.

And that's not a bad starting point for future debates (sure to be covered in this magazine) over how best to manage those resources and amenities.

—EDITOR

DONALD M. JONES
Right: A Bohemian waxwing feeds on mountain ash berries.

NICK FUCCI
Below: A ruby-throated hummingbird takes a rare break from flying.

MICHAEL J. WOLF
Above: Island in the Narrows at Flathead Lake State Park.

DIANE HARGREAVES
Left: Summer alpine colors of lichen, moss, and wildflowers.

TIM CADY
Far left: Sunrise at Lower Geiger Lake in the Cabinet Mountains Wilderness.

LEITH WIMMER
Above: Elk charge across the Gallatin River.

CHUCK AND GALE ROBBINS
Right: Pronghorn antelope stroll on the prairie.

DONALD M. JONES
Far right: A mule deer buck and doe.

G. ALLEN HAY
Above left: An ice angler plunges his auger into frozen Georgetown Lake west of Anaconda.

BARRY & CATHY BECK
Above right: An angler tries another fly while fishing to rising trout on the Madison River at Quake Lake near West Yellowstone.

DUŠAN SMETANA
Above: A northern pike thrashes to free itself from a shallow-water crankbait.

PATRICK RUMMANS
Below: A yellow-headed blackbird clings to dried cattail stalks.

DIANE HARGREAVES
Bottom: Flowering sedges.

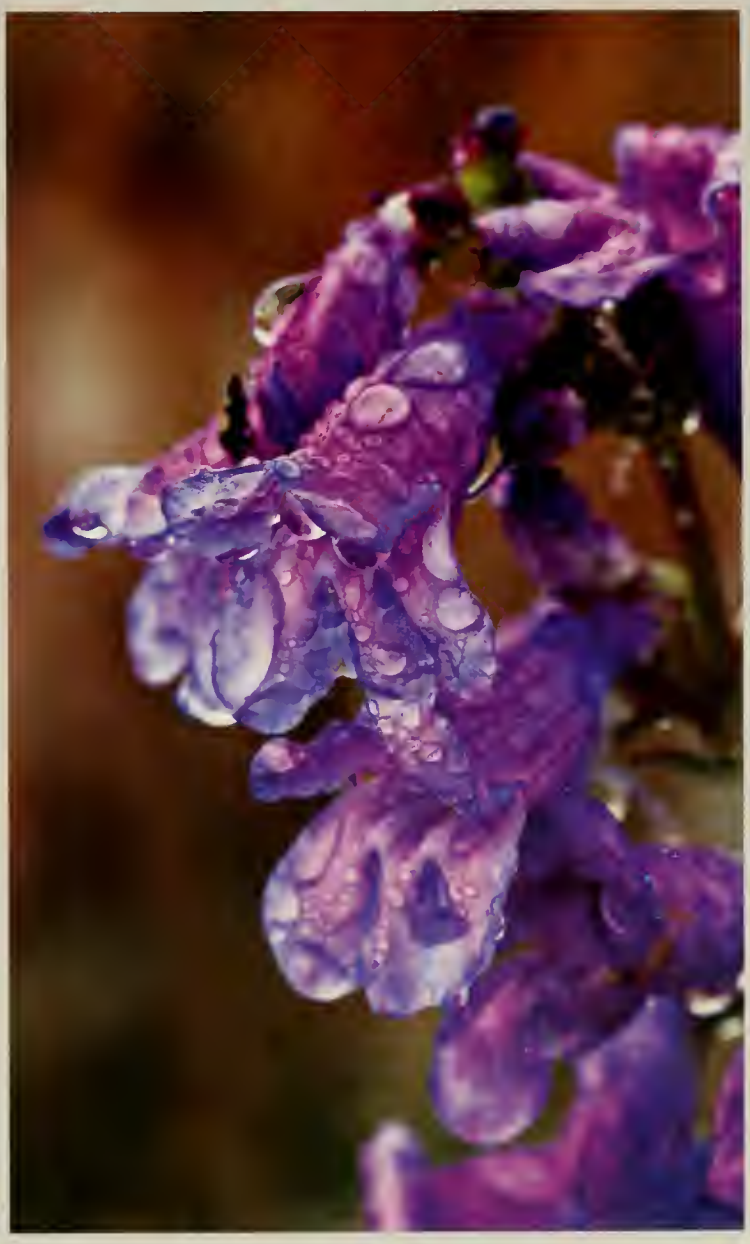
TIM CADY
Left: A cow and calf moose sit out a shower in the Cabinet Mountains Wilderness.

BOB MARTINKA
Below: Eastern kingbird.

STEVE MITCHELL
Far left: Rusty blackbird.

JEREMIE HOLLMAN
Above: Bitterroot (*Lewisia rediviva*).

D. LINNELL BLANK
Left: Gunnison's mariposa lily (*Calochortus gunnisonii*).



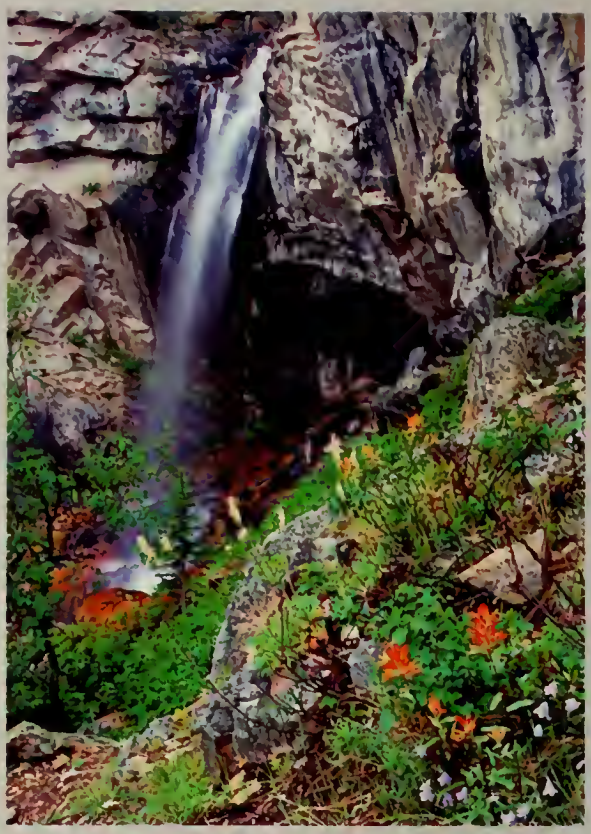
JUDY WANTULOK
Right: Penstemon.

STEVEN AKRE
Below: Indian pipe
(Monotropa uniflora).

CHUCK HANEY
Above left: Branding day.

JOSEPH HOFER
Left: Sunrise over cows and golden hills near Cut Bank.

CHUCK HANEY
Above: An old grain elevator at Sipple near Lewistown.



WARD M. THURMAN
Right: Silver Creek Falls on a summer morning in the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness near Red Lodge.

BOB KURZENHAUSER
Far right: Late-spring runoff coalesces in a small chasm on Reynolds Creek in Glacier National Park.

CAROL POLICH
Below: Gin-clear water spills into the Missouri River at Giant Springs State Park in Great Falls.

JUAN DE SANTA ANNA
River Point at Seeley Lake

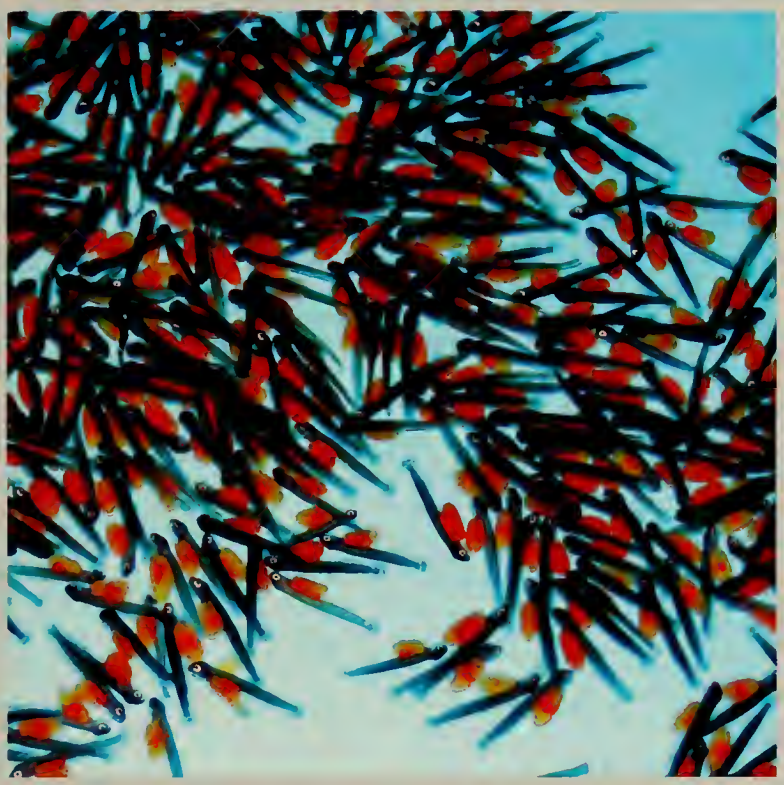
STEVE MITCHELL
Far right: Mountain goat in alpine wildflowers.

ALAN G. NELSON
Below: White-tailed jackrabbit.

CHUCK HANEY
Above: Badland formations at Makoshika State Park near Glendive.

JUAN DE SANTA ANNA
Top right: A tottering old house along the Rocky Mountain Front.

STEVEN AKRE
Right: Bighorn sheep.



BOB SEARS
Above: Rainbow trout fry at the Giant Springs Fish Hatchery in Great Falls.

ELIZABETH A. LEWIS
Left: Spider web with morning dew.

STEVEN AKRE
Above: Rocks and reflections.

G. ALLEN HAY
Right: Autumn still life of aspen leaves and driftwood.

NELSON KENTER
Far right: Reflecting autumn leaves turn the surface of Nine Mile Creek near Missoula to burnished copper.

KELLY GORHAM
Right: A red-winged blackbird on the Bitterroot Birding and Nature Trail near Hamilton.

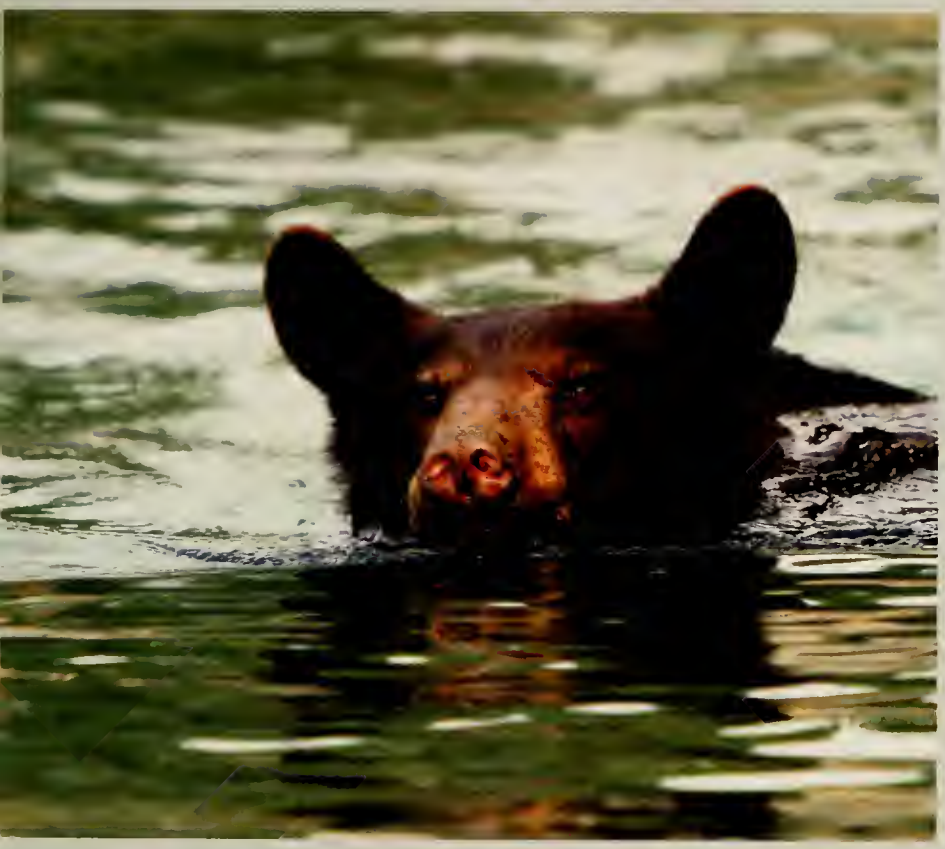
PATRICK RUMMANS
Below: A horned lark rests on a rusty barbed-wire fence.

DEA VOGEL
Above: Tundra swans at Freezout Lake Wildlife Management Area.

CABEL NOTEBOOM
Left: Canada geese take off from the misty Bighorn River.

DONALD M. JONES
Above: An elk keeps his velvet dry while swimming a river.

TOM ULRICH
Right: A rare fish-eye view of a beaver.



NORMAN JACOBSON
Left: A black bear swims across a shallow lake.

DUŠAN SMETANA
Below: A yellow Lab retrieves a duck dummy.

RON BOGGS
Above: Ice crystals form over rose hips.

JOHN LAMBING
Right: An ice climber scales a frozen waterfall on the Rocky Mountain Front.

JENNIFER JACKSON
Right: A spurge hawkmoth caterpillar on a willow branch along the Yellowstone River.

RODNEY SCHLECHT
Far right: Western chorus frog.

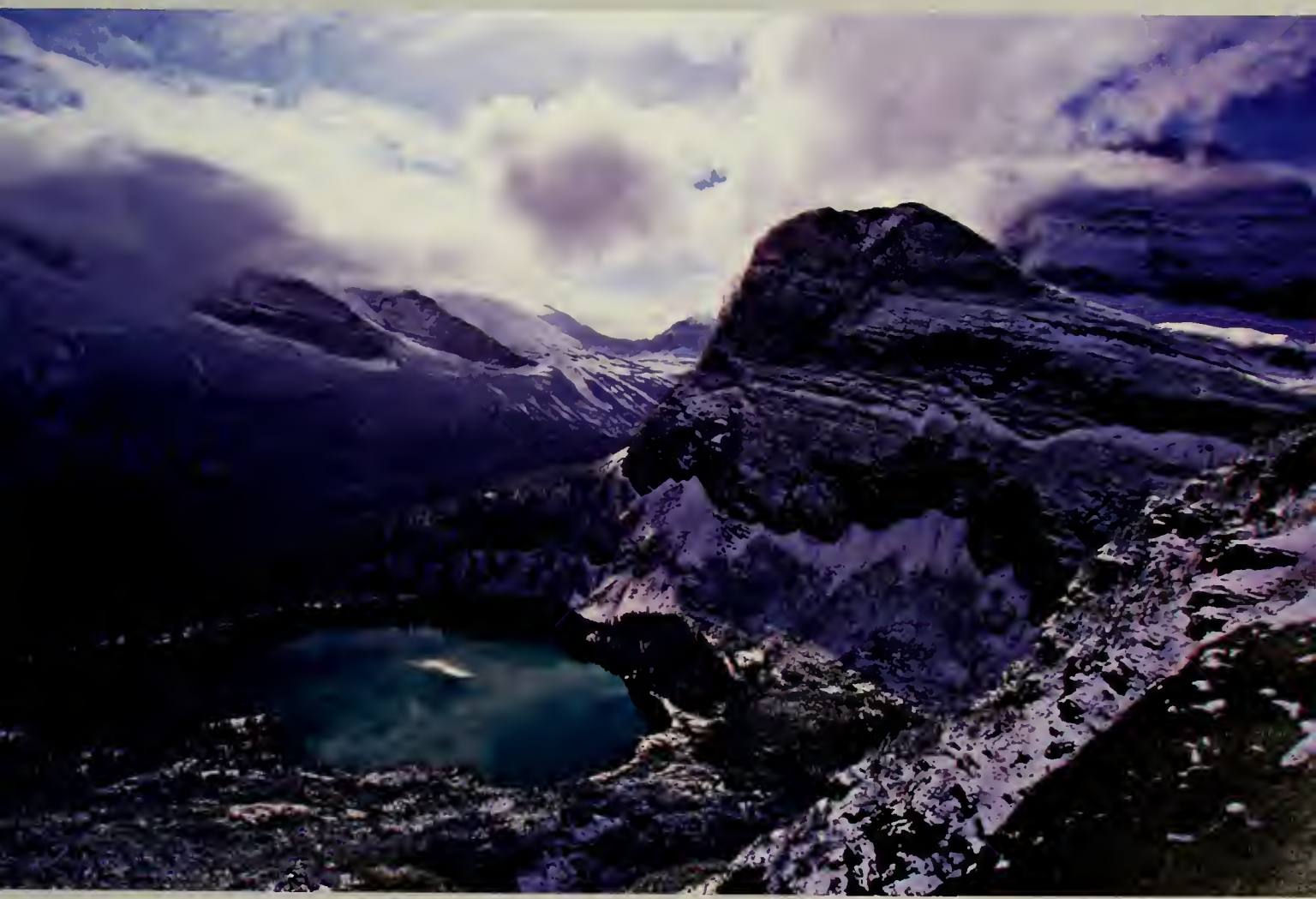
JUDY WANTULOK
Below right: A young black-crowned night heron prepares to devour a small snake.

MARK C. BOESCH
Below: Forest floor still life.

JEFF HENRY
Left: Framed by a double arch in the Gallatin Range, hikers take in a high mountain view.

BRENT AND DELLA LONNER
Below: A winter view of Glacier National Park's Angel Wing and Grinnell Lake.

D. LINNELL BLANK
Below left: Moonlight over Mount Brown in Glacier National Park.



CAROL POLICH
Below: Rays of sunlight and sparkling water spray off a bison.

CASSIE HARTMAN
Left: Sunlight outlines a mountain goat atop a ridge.

GARY LEPPART
Below: Two elk silhouetted against a fiery sunset look for a quiet place to spend the night.

PARTING SHOT

WILD? NEIGH

Domestic horses evoke a romanticized image of the West as they gallop across a field near the scenic Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area. Photo by Cabel Noteboom

Ranked Number One

For the past two years, Montana Outdoors has won first place in the state conservation magazine competition held by the Association For Conservation Information.

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